

02-277

From: DOUGLAS BARNES
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 2:43 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Media Ownership Changes

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am deeply distressed about your plans to further relax FCC rules that will allow further consolidation of media ownership. Americans have already suffered significant narrowing of the views presented in all media outlets as local ownership has been replaced by corporate control, and there are already countless minority and alternative voices who are not being heard. Clearly, more TV channels and more print media do not mean more diversity of views when they are controlled by a handful of owners.

As a citizen in my late 60s, I am shocked and dismayed to see how the U.S. media in recent decades has evolved to become a unilateral voice for corporations and no longer represents the cause of labor or of the common people. Although our Constitution recognizes that free expression is at the very root of democracy, it has become the exclusive right of those who can most afford to buy it.

I would like to remind you that the FCC was established to PROTECT the public interest, not to manipulate it or throttle its voice. The FCC should be the guardian of the media resource and has instead become its pimp. Through the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the American people have already been sold out to an alarming degree; we have seen not more choices, but fewer; the competition and the savings that were assured us have not occurred.

Mr. Powell, we are at a critical junction in our nation's history and you play a decisive role in determining our path. If you allow even greater concentration of media ownership at this time, I believe you can claim the dubious honor of dealing our democracy its final death blow. I urge your serious reconsideration of this issue.

Yours truly,

Jeanne Thomason
Half Moon Bay, California

From: Warren Criswell
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 2:47 PM
Subject: media deregulation

Dear Commissioner Abernathy,

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. It's bad enough as it is. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq. Their already severe loss of credibility will only get worse if the FCC's plan to let them to merge is allowed to go through.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Please oppose media deregulation.

Sincerely,

Warren Criswell

From: John Risseuw
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner
Adelstein, john_mccain@mccain.senate.gov, info@kyl.senate.gov, jdhayworth@mail.house.gov
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 2:50 PM
Subject: Public Comments on FCC Docket No. 02-277

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review - Review of the
Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to
Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Notice of Proposed
Rulemaking, MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary and FCC Commissioners:

Regarding public comments on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the
FCC's broadcast media ownership rules: To promote competition, diversity
and local content, the FCC should retain the current media ownership rules
and impose stricter public interest requirements.

I believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC may be flawed and
incomplete. By allowing our media outlets to merge print and broadcast
facilities a greater restriction on the breadth of news and information
available to citizens to act in the public interest will result.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules
in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Commission to hold hearings in all
parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from
the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of
these decisions.

Thank you,

John L. Risseuw
2037 E. Manhattan Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85282

John L. Risseuw, Professor
Director, Pyracantha Press
School of Art
Box 871505
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona 85287-1505
480-965-3713 office; 480-965-8338 fax

From: Michael Hampton
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 2:57 PM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Media Ownership Limits - DO NOT Remove Remaining Regulatory Limits on Corporations

Michael Hampton
10779
Los Angeles, CA 90024

April 28, 2003

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioner Abernathy:

The FCC must NOT further weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media.

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

The FCC is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal of or further modification to these rules will likely open the door to more mergers that will continue to reduce competition and diversity in the media. If the rules are weakened further, one company in a city could control the most popular newspaper, TV station and possibly the cable system, giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of news and information. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in this country. Media ownership would be concentrated by corporate monopolies even further, and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with diverse viewpoints would be compromised.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hilton

From: Michael Hampton
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 2:58 PM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Media Ownership Limits - DO NOT Remove Remaining Regulatory Limits on Corporations

Michael Hampton
10779
Los Angeles, CA 90024

April 28, 2003

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street., SW
Washington, DC 20554

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From: Michael Hampton
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 3:00 PM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Media Ownership Limits - DO NOT Remove Remaining Regulatory Limits on Corporations

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Los Angeles, CA 90024

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Sincerely,

Jennifer Hilton

From: John Tupper
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 3:10 PM
Subject: Lifting restrictions

Dear Mr. Powell,

If my understanding is correct the commission is about to vote on whether or not to lift restrictions on media conglomerates, allowing them to purchase as many stations and media outlets as they wish. Please do not allow this. I do not want to be subjected to the views and biases of a few individuals or entities. If you want an informed and diverse democracy many views are needed. I do not want to see and hear Clear Channel's views everywhere I go. Please stop this from happening.

Thanks,

John Tupper

Illusive Reality Animation

(408)293-7620

FAX (408)904-5506

jftupper@earthlink.net

From: Janet Smarr
To: Mike Powell, KM KJMWEB, Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 3:17 PM
Subject: media consolidations

Dear FCC members: The increasing consolidation of ownership over media has had the profoundly disturbing effect of increasingly limiting the range of information and viewpoints available to the public. You have a duty to the public to make sure that the media ownership does not become so narrow as to undermine democracy. I am therefore appalled to hear that you are planning deregulation which would even further restrict media ownership by allowing the current handful of large media owners to buy each other. I urge you NOT to do this. Already large segments of the population view the media as primarily a propaganda tool of the corporations-and-government. Coverage of the run-up to and war in Iraq has made this painfully clear. Democracy cannot function without a broad range of information and debate. The FCC should be making it harder, not easier, for any corporation to control too much of the media. Sincerely, Dr. Janet Smarr

From: Vanessa Joseph
To: KM KJMWEB, Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 3:37 PM
Subject: Media Deregulation

Dear Commissioners Martin and Abernathy:

Further consolidation of our media will greatly restrict our access to information. How can reporting be unbiased when under the control of only a few giant corporations with strong political, economic and social ties to the government? The monopolization of our media will undermine our precious democracy. As a concerned U.S. citizen, I urge you to use your considerable power to prevent media deregulation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Vanessa Joseph
111 La Paz Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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From: ed cooley
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 4:35 PM
Subject: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation

Dear Commissioner:

Re: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation.

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Oppose media deregulation.

Ed Cooley
PO Box 642
Elkton, OR 97436
541-584-2693

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<http://search.yahoo.com>

From: Patrik Rousselot
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 4:51 PM
Subject: Re: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation.

Dear Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Re: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation.

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have totally failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq was more about propaganda to brain wash the populace where censorship was blatant than real information .

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Oppose media deregulation.

Sincerely,

Patrik Rousselot

From: Joseph Martinez
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 5:24 PM
Subject: The public owns the air waves

Dear Commisioner,

The deregulation of the media would be a drastic mistake. How long would it be before there were two or three companies controlling all the public's information. Please consider the future of our country's journalistic interests and our constitution which was written for the people not corporations. Fell free to call me if you wish to discuss this matter further with an average film school student and media addict.

Sincerely,

Joseph Martinez
5524 Tellina Way
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(805) 967-3031

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From: Kathleen Abernathy
To: KAQUINN
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 5:27 PM
Subject: Fwd: Protect Children's Television!

From: Cate Hagman
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 6:39 PM
Subject: Allowing more media consolidation will lower quality

Mr. Powell:

I was disappointed to read your remarks claiming that eliminating current restrictions on media ownership will improve the quality of our media. On the contrary, it will simply guarantee that companies will cut corners in reporting, become even more estranged from the communities they supposedly serve, and further lower the standards of what is printed and broadcast. If you have any sense of history or of your obligation to the American people, you will not rush to overturn current restrictions.

As the market currently stands, a handful of companies control nearly everything we read, hear, and see. Few American cities have two competing newspapers, and local radio stations are being driven out by large corporations, such as Clear Channel, which impose a one-size-fits-all approach to local programming.

Television gives the appearance of variety, but those many channels are controlled primarily by five companies, which seem intent on using the airwaves to foist cheaply made "reality" programs on us and to promote their own programs and theatrical releases. Certainly I can't be the only person who has noticed that shows used to promote the latest James Bond movie are being touted as science, history, or biography!

In short, Mr. Powell, there is already considerable consolidation of power, and it has not worked to the service of the people or the improvement of the content of the airwaves. In fact, we are experiencing a race to the bottom in terms of quality, with the news divisions eliminating staff and coverage, and entertainment programming's overreliance on mean-spirited and ephemeral "reality" TV.

If you are interested in preventing your tenure from being cited as a low point in American media history, you will go directly to the American public and Congress, and hold open and lively hearings and town meetings to discuss the future of the media and the implications of changing ownership rules.

The airwaves belong to the American people, not to media moguls.

Catherine Hagman
8009 Eastern Drive, #304
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 585-1742

From: Vachelle McFarland
To: Mike Powell, Commissioner Adelstein, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM
KJMWEB
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 7:05 PM
Subject: Media Deregulation Vote

Dear Commissioner:

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Thank you,
Vachelle McFarland
Los Angeles, CA

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From: ElvaKatheryn Beckel
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 8:09 PM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Openness in the Media and on the Internet

ElvaKatheryn Beckel
81742 San Salvador St
Indio, CA 92201-7760

April 28, 2003

Federal Communications Commission Chair Michael K. Powell
445 12th St SW
Rm 8-A204
Washington, DC 20554

Chair Powell:

The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for ensuring that the media serve the public interest. I am concerned that the FCC is acting on behalf of big business rather than the people.

It is clear that the FCC has stepped up its efforts to de-regulate the media and telecommunications industries. You must act now to halt further media consolidation and to preserve the openness and diversity of the Internet.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society. Ownership consolidation is squeezing out what little diversity remains in the marketplace.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review any further regulations. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

ElvaKatheryn Beckel

From: Robert Reader
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 9:18 PM
Subject: deregulation

We ask you to postpone any deregulation legislation until thorough, open discussion and debate about the consequences of such legislation can happen.

Our information sources are already largely controlled by corporate owners -- do not add to the harm with this inappropriate legislation that will further diminish our access to varied information sources. The electorate needs free access to news. Help us. That is your responsibility -- otherwise, the FCC need not exist.

Mary S. Reader Rev. Dr. Robert D. Reader
4 Allerton Ave.
Middletown NY 10940

From: Tracey Schilling
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 11:05 PM
Subject: no further media consolidation

Dear Commissioner Abernathy,

Re: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation.

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Oppose media deregulation.

Sincerely,

Tracey A. Schilling

From: Hugh
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 11:08 PM
Subject: Media Ownership Issues

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

I am my no means an ultra liberal and I am no fan of Big Government. However, it is clear that media deregulation has not worked. Even the biggest supporters of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 are now admitting this isn't what they had in mind.

Government's job is to foster free enterprise by guaranteeing a level playing field. Please understand I am not talking about any kind of guarantee of success for anyone. Free markets will always have winners and losers. And media audiences at large may not pick the kind of formats or publications that I'd like them to. That's life. But the free market system - as it applies to broadcast media in this country - has become so corrupted and distorted since 1996 that something must be done.

First, no more deregulation must occur - particularly in the area of ownership limits and concentration.

Second, Congress should take a close look at restoring some ownership limits. I have no problem with a company like News Corp. (although I can't stand them personally) owning AM-FM-TV and a newspaper in a major market like New York. I would probably also have no problem with a company being able to own 2 AMs and 2 FM's along with a TV station and a newspaper in a major market. But major markets only. Below a certain level (any suggestions?), it should be 1 AM, 1 FM and 1 TV station and no print cross-ownership - at least not without a waiver from the FCC after the individual situation has been examined.

And total media ownership by a single company shouldn't be allowed to cover more than 33% of the country. I'm open to suggestions on how much any over-the-air media company should be allowed to expand into cable.

And - oh yes - any company threatening to bar airplay of recordings by a particular artist unless that artist promotes his or her concerns through them should be brought up on Federal charges - with jail terms in the offing.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Hugh

Hugh Christopher Henry
957 East 37th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11210-3431
USA

Home: 1-718-421-4288
Cell: 1-718-614-9463

CC: hch3@webtv.net

From: ethandep
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 11:26 PM
Subject: FCC Rules

Dear Ms.Abernathy,

We wish to register our FIRM OPPOSITION to the proposed rules changes on media ownership that are now being considered by the FCC..Allowing consolidation and cross ownership of the news media creates monopolies and will eventually result in censorship of the news.

We want to hear and see all sides of the news of the world, and have the privilege of forming our own opinions from many diverse viewpoints.

Please do not weaken or eliminate rules that now control mergers and acquisitions.

Respectfully,

Seymour Epstein

Ethel Epstein

Sun City West, AZ.